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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Attachment B

President of the German Administration  
of the Interior in the Soviet Occupation Zone

Berlin-Wilhelmsruh, 21 July 1948  
Kurze Strasse 5/6

Ref. No. 6255/48 Wa/A1

To the Chief of the Land Police Authority of Saxony-Anhalt  
Ministerialdirektor ZAISPER  
Halle/Saale

Circular No. 2/48

For a long time official and private services in the western occupation zones have tried in increasing measure to obtain official documents, statistical material, plans of organization, etc. concerning authorities and in particular concerning economic institutions of the Soviet Occupation Zone. The form and manner in which this occurs is greatly variegated: from official requests for information allegedly for the purpose of coordinating all-German interests, through semi-official requests for official compilations for the purpose of archives or statistical considerations, to private inquiries for alleged furthering of trade connections between eastern and western Germany, all possibilities in numerous variations are tried. Even the form of a police circular was chosen in one case in order to obtain definite data, election reports, etc. on conditions, especially of the police, in the Russian Occupation Zone.

It was learned that many times administrative and authoritative employees of the Soviet Occupation Zone distributed the desired information and data in fact. Since the employees responsible for this were evidently not aware of the effect of their action, it is necessary to prohibit in general the malicious or frivolous distribution of information in order to prevent a wider damage to economy and administration of the Soviet Occupation Zone.

It is therefore ordered to decree the following:

1. The Ministers of Interior of the states in the Soviet Occupation Zone are requested to give to all subordinate services and lower-level authorities binding instruction according to which:
  - a. The dissemination of information or data of any type at the request of public or private services from the zones of the western occupation powers is absolutely forbidden.
  - b. As exception from this provision, only replies to official inquiries from the western occupation zones are permissible which are placed by way of the official office and legal aid traffic authorized by SMA.
  - c. Intentional or unintentional transgressions against the information prohibition will be punished with disciplinary and legal penalties on those responsible (Order No. 160 of SMA Germany, para 353 b St GB).
  - d. Services subordinate to the Minister of Interior and lower authorities have to report to the Ministers of Interior all cases of inquiries from the western occupation zones and all transgressions against the prohibition on information.
2. Though their personnel main division, the Minister of Interior is to instruct on a-d all other division and services of his Land.
3. The Ministers of Interior are requested to report to me on their results.

Signed WAGNER, Vice president

Signed: Dr. FISCHER

Service Seal

Certified translation:

(signature)

Political Upper Secretary

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